

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 through 5, 7, 9 through 14, 16 through 20 are pending in the case.

Claims 2, 6, 8 and 15 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 18 and 19 have been amended.

Discussion of Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,617,523 (Imazu).

Examiner has indicated claims 2, 6, 8, 11 through 13, 15 and 18 through 20 are objected to as being based dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with subject matter Examiner indicates would be allowable.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to additionally include the limitations formerly set out in claim 2.

Claim 5 has been amended to be in independent form and to include limitations formerly in claim 1 and claim 6.

Claim 7 has been amended to additionally include the limitations formerly set out in claim 8.

Claim 11 has been amended to be in independent form and to include limitations formerly in claim 7.

Claim 12 has been amended to be in independent form and to include limitations formerly in claim 7.

Claim 14 has been amended to additionally include the limitations formerly set out in claim 15.

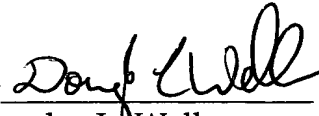
Claim 18 has been amended to be in independent form and to include limitations formerly in claim 14.

Claim 19 has been amended to be in independent form and to include limitations formerly in claim 14.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this Amendment has placed the present Application in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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